

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services Standard Operating Guidelines

Special Tactic And Response Team

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services allows four Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic level staff members to join the STAR Team.

- To be considered for STAR Team membership the employees must:
 - Have a minimum of one-year experience as a full time Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic with Catawba County Emergency Medical Services.
 - Have a minimum of three years experience as an Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic with an advanced life support service.
 - Obtain a letter of support from his/her Crew Chief, Chief Trainer, and Training Officer.
 - Obtain a letter of recommendation from the EMS Manager. This recommendation will be based on past performance, work history, and information obtained from the employees' Crew Chief, Chief Trainer, and Training Officer. In addition, the EMS Manager will assign the potential STAR Team member to work with a current STAR Medic for several shifts to insure the potential team member possesses the necessary desire and attitude to be an effective STAR Medic.
 - Score a minimum of "Meets Expectations" on all annual performance evaluations.
 - Successfully meet all components of a Department of Transportation medical screening prior to taking the initial STAR Team Physical Agility evaluation and annually thereafter.
 - Successfully complete the STAR Team Physical agility evaluation.
 - Successfully meet all STAR Team requirements.
 - Once an employee has completed the above requirements and has been approved by the other STAR Team Members, then the employee will be a STAR Team member.
- Activation of EMS STAR Team Members (STAR Medic)
 - The STAR Medic will be issued an alphanumeric pager. This pager will be utilized for notification of STAR Team activation.
 - The STAR Medic will notify the on-duty Shift Supervisor of the activation and the location.
 - The on-duty Shift Supervisor will assign a crew to respond with the STAR Team.
 - If a STAR Medic is on-duty the Shift Supervisor will assign that crew to respond, unless they are already busy on another assignment.
 - If no STAR Medic is on-duty at the time of the activation (or if the on-duty STAR Medic is already busy on another assignment) the off-duty STAR Medic will respond to the scene and the Shift Supervisor will assign the appropriate crew to the incident.
 - The Shift Supervisor will respond to the incident to replace an on-duty STAR Medic or to provide other assistance as needed.

- EMS units responding to assist the STAR Medic will respond non-emergency traffic, unless otherwise directed by the communications center.
- If an on-duty STAR Medic is responding in an emergency vehicle, then that STAR Medic will respond in accordance with the STAR Team Guidelines.
- If an off-duty STAR Medic is responding in his or her personal vehicle, then that STAR Medic will respond in accordance with the STAR Team Guidelines.
- The STAR Medic will notify the Communications Center (via an appropriate VHF radio frequency) of his or her response and will request a CAD entry be initiated.
- The STAR Medic will respond to the location requested by the Incident Commander.
- The responding crew will respond to the designated staging area unless directed otherwise by the Incident Commander.
- Upon arrival of the STAR Medic he/she will report to the Incident Commander or other area designated by the Incident Commander.
- EMS units and personnel will operate under the Incident Command System and follow the directions of the Incident Commander or designee.
 - The triage, treatment, and transportation of all patients will be based on the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System Patient Care Policies, Procedures, and Protocols.
 - The highest-ranking (either by position or credential) EMS employee on the scene will direct EMS operations.
 - The Incident Commander may request additional STAR Medics or other EMS resources as needed.
 - Communication between the STAR Medic and other EMS units will be conducted on a frequency assigned by the Incident Commander.
 - All EMS units and personnel will return to normal duty when released by the Incident Commander.
- EMS Administration reserves the right to cancel the response of any and all EMS employees based on the current status of on-duty units, other incidents that may be occurring, and the safety of our personnel.
 - In the event that the EMS Administration decides to cancel a response, the EMS Administrative representative will notify the Incident Commander.
- EMS units and personnel that are responding to assist the STAR Team will not broadcast any information that may jeopardize the STAR Team operations or the safety of the responding personnel.
- Catawba County EMS will, when equipment is available, issue each STAR Medic a portable radio.

- The radio issued to a STAR Medic will remain the property of Catawba County EMS and must be returned upon separation from the STAR team or when requested by the EMS Administration.
- Due to the STAR Team radios having secure frequencies this radio must be secured by the STAR Medic at all times.
- The STAR Medic will not carry this radio while on-duty with EMS or any other agency.

The radio will not be used for any purpose other than STAR Team operations or in the event that the STAR Medic needs to request emergency assistance and has no other communications device.

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